

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6069

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

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SUBJ: LEADING REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) FIGURE SENT TO WOO
LEFT-OF-CENTER UNION CONFEDERATION

SUMMARY: REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) DEPUTY SEC GEN DENIZ BAYKAL
ATTENDED OPENING SESSION OF DISK REVOLUTIONARY TRADE CONFEDERATION
CONGRESS IN ORDER GAIN DISK SUPPORT FOR RPP. BAYKAL DELIVERED IN-
FLAMMATORY SPEECH AGAINST NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT AND URGED
"LEFT" TO UNITE AGAINST "RIGHT." END SUMMARY.

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) HAD HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION
AT OPENING MAY 21 FIFTH GENERAL CONGRESS OF REVOLUTIONARY TRADE
UNION CONFEDERATION DISK. RPP DEPUTY SEC GEN AND MIN OF FIN IN ECEVIT
GOVERNMENT, DENIZ BAYKAL, ATTENDED FIRST SESSION ACCOMPANIED BY
OTHER RPP PARLIAMENTARIANS, ISTANBUL PARTY LEADER AYTEKIN KOTIL
AND PRRESIDENTS OF RPP NATIONAL AND ISTANBUL YOUTH BRANCHES
ZEKI ALCIN AND SUHA AKINCI. DISK PRESIDENT KEMAL TURKLER DELIVERED
OPENING SPEECH IN WHICH HE PRAISED REFORMS CARRIED OUT IN NAME OF
THE "PEOPLE" DURING RPP'S SEVEN MONTHS IN OFFICE AND IN CONTRAST
TO ANTI-WORKER BIAS OF DEMIREL'S NATIONALIST FRONT.

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2. THEME OF BAYKAL'S ADDRESS WAS NEED FOR LEFT TO COALESCE IN FACE

OF CHALLENGE TO LIBERTIES POSED BY DEMIREL GOVERNMENT. BAYKAL CLAIMED THAT RIGHT HAD ASSUMED 1961 CONSTITUTION WOULD PREVENT A CENTER LEFT GOVERNMENT FROM COMING TO POWER. RPP'S FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT FRIGHT

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ENED THE RIGHT, ACCORDING TO BAYKAL, AND AS A RESULT THE NATIONALIST FRONT, ALTHOUGH IN FACT A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, IS TRYING TO CHANGE LAWS TO FORECLOSE CHANCE OF THE CENTER-LEFT AGAIN GAINING POWER. BAYKAL SAID THAT THE LEFT, OF WHICH THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS IN VANGUARD, MUST HEAL SCHISMS AND UNITE BEHIND RPP IN ORDER COMBAT RIGHT'S ABRIDEMENT OF FREEDOMS. HE SAID LEFT MUST TAKE "WHATEVER MEASURES IT CAN" TO OPPOSE NATIONALIST FRONT.

3. COMMENT: SINCE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS CONGRESS WILL BE THE DETERMINATION OF DISK'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION, THE PRESENCE OF A FIGURE OF BAYKAL'S STANDING SUGGESTS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE RPP ATTACHES TO DISK'S SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH DISK BACKED THE RPP IN 1973, IT IS NOW UNDER PRESSURE FROM WITHIN TO ASSIST THE TWO NEW LABOR PARTIES, TURKISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY AND THE RECONSTITUTED TURKISH LABOR PARTY.

4. A THIRD ALTERNATIVE WHICH COULD THREATEN DISK SUPPORT OF THE RPP WAS OFFERED AT THE SAME SESSION BY IBRAHIM DENIZCIER, HEAD OF THE TURK-IS AFFILIATED FOOD WORKERS UNION TEK GIDA-IS. DENIZCIER PROPOSED THAT DISK AND TURK-IS COOPERATE IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW PARTY REPRESENTING "ALL THE WORKERS." GIVEN THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH MANY DELEGATES GREETED THIS PROPOSAL, IT IS NOT SURPRISING RPP WANTED ONE OF MOST POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE FIGURES ON HAND AT THE CONGRESS.

5. ALTHOUGH BAYKAL'S SURPRISINGLY INFLAMMATORY REMARKS, WHICH WERE NOT FULLY REPORTED IN NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, MUST BE VIEWED IN TERMS OF THE AUDIENCE TO WHICH THEY WERE DIRECTED, THEY ARE NONETHELESS THE MOST PROVOCATIVE WORDS WE HAVE HEARD FROM ANY RPP SPOKESMEN TO DATE; AND APPEAR TO BE FIRST TIME RPP HAS ACCUSED NATIONALIST FRONT OF TRYING TO CHANGE THE "RULES OF THE GAME." ASSUMING THAT HIS SPEECH WAS CLEARED BY ECEVIT, BAYKAL'S STATEMENT MAY HERALD A MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH IN THE RPP'S EFFORT TO BREAK UP THE NATIONALIST FRONT GOVERNMENT.
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